

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 DPW-01 IO-12

AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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P 071437 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9810

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5874

E. O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS: MILI PINT VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 7 1973

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM DATED APR 7 FROM AMCONGEN CAN THO
SENT ACTION AMEMBASSY SAIGON IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR
ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0140

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 7, 1973

1. SUMMARY: RELATIVELY HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES IN DINH TUONG,
HONG NGU, AND CHUONG THIEN. CHUONG THIEN LED THE APRIL 6
INCIDENT PARADE WITH OVER 30 INCIDENTS. THE NVA ROCKETED
TAN CHAU FOR THE 20 TH TIME SINCE THE CEASEFIRE. SIX DEMONSTRATORS
PROTESTING THE ROCKETING OF TAN CHAU PRESENTED A PROTEST TO THE
ICCS IN CAN THO. THE NVA E-46 REGIMENT HAS WITHDRAWN FROM KIEN
GIANG PROVINCE INTO CAMBODIA ENDING, FOR THE TIME BEING, THE THREAT
TO HA TIEN. MR IV HAS ORDERED THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL TACTICAL
AREA STRADDLING THE BA XUYEN- BAC LIEU BORDER. THE MR IV
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MOI WILL ATTEND AN APRIL 9 MEETING IN SAIGON
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TO DISCUSS PRESIDENT THIEU'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT 30-40 PERCENT OF GVN PERSONNEL WILL BE REDEPLOYED TO PROVINCE AND DISTRICT. END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY SITUATION: MR IV REPORTED 82 ENEMY INITIATED INCIDENTS FOR APRIL 6. THIS NUMBER INCLUDES OVER 30 INCIDENTS IN CHUONG THIEN. RVNAF CASUALTIES IN MR IV TOTALED 25 KIA AND 125 WIA CONTINUING THE TREND OF THE PAST FEW DAYS OF RELATIVELY HEAVY CASUALTIES. ACTION IN DINH TUONG CONTINUED HEAVY BUT WAS MOSTLY LIMITED TO ATTACKS ON OUTPOSTS. THE BATTLE FOR HONG NGU ALSO CONTINUES UNABATED. INCOMING ROCKETS AND RETURN ARTILLERY FIRE WERE THE ORDER OF THE DAY APRIL 6. THE NVA ROCKETED TAN CHAU DISTRICT TOWN, CHAU DOC, APRIL 6 FOR THE 20 TH TIME. MR IV REPORTS THAT CASUALTIES IN TAN CHAU OVER THE PAST SIX WEEKS TOTAL 55 KILLED AND 112 WOUNDED FROM ROCKET ATTACKS. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE RESULTS OF THE APRIL 6 ROCKETING WHICH WERE: 15 KILLED, 35 WOUNDED, 44 HOUSES DESTROYED.

3. ICCS: (A) THIRTY TO FORTY DEMONSTRATORS APPEARED AT THE GATES OF THE REGION VII ICCS COMPOUND JUST BEFORE NOON APRIL 6 TO PROTEST THE NVA ROCKETING OF TAN CHAU. ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE GVN JMC, LTC. DO, WHO APPEARED TO BE LEADING THE DEMONSTRATORS, THEY WERE PART OF A LARGER GROUP OF 600 DEMONSTRATORS WHO WERE SIMULTANEOUSLY CONDUCTING A DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE CAN THO CITY HALL. AFTER SOME NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN COL. DO AND AN ICCS REPRESENTATIVE, THE ICCS ADMITTED SIX DEMONSTRATORS TO THE ICCS COMPOUND WHERE THEY MET WITH THE CHIEFS OF THE FOUR DELEGATIONS. THE SIX, WHO WERE DESCRIBED AS ONE CAMBODIAN MONK, TWO VIETNAMESE MONKS, TWO " OFFICIALS IN SUITS" AND ONE " FARMERS' REPRESENTATIVE", PRESENTED A VISIBLY NERVOUS HUNGARIAN ICCS CHAIRMAN WITH A PETITION. THE SPOKESMAN OF THE GROUP TOLD THE ASSEMBLED ICCS CHIEFS THAT IT WAS ICCS RESPONSIBILITY TO STOP THE NVA ATTACKS, NOTING THAT THERE WERE " TWO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES" AND " TWO COUNTRIES FROM THE FREEDOM-LOVING CAMP" ON THE COMMISSION.

(B) MEAHWILE THE TRI TON ICCS TEAM WAS INVESTIGATING THE APRIL 5 ROCKETING OF TAN CHAU DISTRICT TOWN. THE TEAM FORTUNATELY SPENT LITTLE TIME IN TAN CHAU AS THREE MORE ROCKETS STRUCK AT NOON APRIL 6. NO REPORT OF THE TEAM'S INVESTIGATION IS YET AVAILABLE.

4. COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES: UNDER UNRELENTING RANGER PRESSURE IN ITS BINH TRI MOUNTAIN PENINSULA, THE NVA E-46 REGIMENT HAS WITHDRAWN ITS REMAINING FORCES FROM KIEN LUONG DISTRICT OF KIEN GIANG INTO CAMBODIA. THE RECONSTITUTED REGIMENT IS REPORTEDLY STANDING DOWN AND REFITTING. WITH ITS DEPARTURE THE THREAT TO HA TIEN AND THE NORTHERN KIEN GIANG COAST HAS SUBSIDED. THE DISTRICT CHIEF OF HA

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TIEN STATES THAT SECURITY IS NOW ADEQUATE TO PERMIT THE RESUMPTION OF LONG INTERRUPTED BUS SERVICES TO HA TIEN. MR IV G-2, HOWEVER, CARRIES THE E-46'S HEADQUARTERS ONE KILOMETER FROM THE BORDER AND BELIEVES THE REGIMENT EVENTUALLY WILL BE RECOMMITTED IN SUPPORT OF OTHER VC/NVA ATTACKS IN THE DELTA.

5. GVN ACTIVITIES: (A) THE MR IV COMMANDER, MGEN NGHI, HAS ORDERED THE CREATION OF A SPECIAL TACTICAL AREA STRADDLING THE BA XUYEN-BAC LIEU BORDER. THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE TACTICAL AREA WILL BE IN HOA TU DISTRICT OF BA XUYEN PROVINCE AND BOTH PROVINCES WILL MAKE SECTOR FORCES AVAILABLE AS NECESSARY. LTC. NGUYEN VAN SAU, FORMERLY TACTICAL OPERATIONS COMMANDER IN BA XUYEN, HAS BEEN NAMED COMMANDER OF THE TACTICAL AREA. HE WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO THE

BA XUYEN PROVINCE CHIEF. MR IV IS SURE THE VC/NVA INTEND TO OPEN A SMALL VESSEL ARMS ENTRY POINT AT THE MOUTH OF THE MY THANH RIVER. THEY HAVE CONDUCTED ATTACKS DURING PAST WEEKS IN VINH CHAU DISTRICT OF BAC LIEU LARGELY IN SUPPORT OF THIS OBJECTIVE.

(B) DANG DAO VIEN, THE MR IV REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, REPORTS HE WILL ATTEND AN MOI MEETING APRIL 9 IN SAIGON. THE MEETING WILL CONSIDER PRESIDENT THIEU'S MARCH 26 ANNOUNCEMENT IN CAN THO THAT 30-40 PERCENT OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S

ADMINISTRATIVE

PERSONNEL WILL BE REDEPLOYED TO PROVINCE, DISTRICT AND VILLAGE LEVELS. IF THIEU'S ORDER IS CARRIED OUT, VIEN PREDICTED CONFUSION. SAIGON ARRIVALS WOULD FALL TO BICKERING WITH LOCAL, ESPECIALLY VILLAGE, OFFICIALS. UNTIL THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RESPECTIVE LEVELS OF ADMINISTRATION ARE REDEFINED, VIEN FELT THE NEW ADMINISTRATORS COULD NOT BE EFFECTIVE.

BARNES

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